

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sanitary napkin comprising a central absorbent pad, the central absorbent pad having a liquid pervious cover layer, a liquid impervious barrier layer and an absorbent core between the cover layer and barrier layer, a longitudinal centerline, a lateral centerline, a pair of opposite longitudinal side edges, a first distal end and an opposite second distal end and a flap extending laterally outward from each longitudinal side edge along a line of juncture, each flap being substantially adjacent the lateral centerline and adapted to fold over a crotch portion of an undergarment in use, the central absorbent pad further comprising two preferential bending axes, each axis being inward from and adjacent to a respective longitudinal side edge and extending obliquely with respect to the longitudinal centerline, the axes converging towards the longitudinal centerline in the first distal end of the central absorbent pad.
2. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein said preferential bending axes extend from the lateral centerline to the first distal end.
3. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein said preferential bending axes extend from the second distal end to the first distal end.
4. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein the first distal end has a width of less than 30 mm.
5. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein the first distal end has a width of about 15 mm to 20 mm.
6. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein the central absorbent pad has a pair of opposite side margins, one side margin being adjacent

a respective preferential bending line, the side margin being capable of being folded over an edge of a wearer's undergarment in use.

5 7. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 6, wherein each side margin has an adhesive attachment means on a garment faceable side thereof that is adapted to allow a wearer to adhesively affix the side margins to their undergarment in use.

10 8. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein the side margins have a lateral dimension as measured from the preferential bending line to the longitudinal side edge of at least 7 mm.

15 9. A sanitary absorbent article as defined in claim 1, wherein the side margins have a lateral dimension as measured from the preferential bending line to the longitudinal side edge is preferably about 10 to 20 mm.